



BACKGROUND PAPER: CENTRAL AMERICA

Preface

On May 13, 1983, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives issued a report which concluded that "the Sandinistas have stepped up their support for insurgents in Honduras" and that Cuban and Nicaraguan aid for insurgents constitutes "a clear picture of active promotion 'for revolution without frontiers' throughout Central America by Cuba and Nicaragua." The committee also reiterated its earlier finding that the guerrillas in El Salvador "are well trained, well equipped with modern weapons and supplies, and rely on the use of sites in Nicaragua for command and control and for logistical support. The intelligence supporting these judgments provided to the Committee is convincing."

The summary of Cuban, Nicaraguan, and Soviet activities in Central America included in this background paper supports the conclusions of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. It is being issued in the interest of contributing to a better public understanding of the history of developments in the region.

This background paper does not attempt to analyze social and economic conditions in the Central American countries. Rather, it describes how politically motivated violence is being used to exploit the demands for more democracy, social justice, and economic development in Central America in order to bring extreme leftist groups to power.

Released by the Department of State and the Department of Defense

May 27, 1983

Washington, D.C.